

HOLDING THE MOMENT

Artist Narratives

January 11, 2021 - February 14, 2021



Sean Boyles | *Quarantine Sky #2*: Since the quarantine and being at home all day, everyday, I started painting the area right around my house in East San José. My focus has been mostly on the skies with only enough information below the horizon line to give the feeling of my neighborhood. This piece, painted on March 21, 2020, is of the sky above the houses across the street.



Ryan Carrington | *Flag #20*: Using the uniforms of healthcare workers to create an American flag, I pay tribute to their hard work and dedication. The sacrifices our nurses, doctors, and hospital staff have made for the health of our society are unimaginable. Their courage is inspiring. Trained as an artist, this is my way of saying thank you to them for their service.



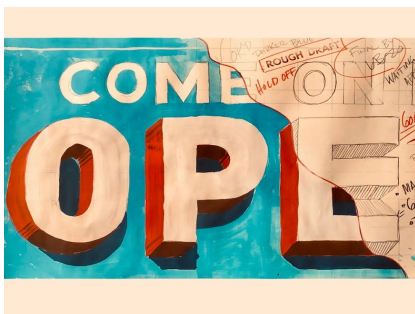
Richard Choi | *Pandemic Personal Protest*: The time of COVID-19 has been a time of tumult in the United States. Many businesses were shuttered in the wake of shelter-in-place orders and George Floyd's death. Creating this mural of Yuri Kochiyama and other civil rights activists was for me an act of solidarity and protest. It also became an unexpected connection to local history when I met Kochiyama's son who lives in the area and was passing by as I was working.



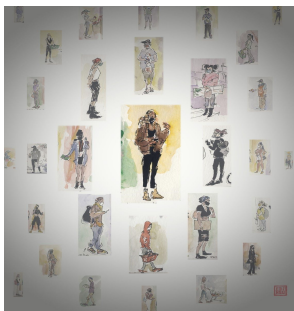
Taylor DuBose | *Contact*: No matter what life throws at us, we can rise to the challenges. Because of the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders, we may not be able to see each other in person, but we're all still here, together. Keep in contact, keep that chin up, and keep your life movin'.



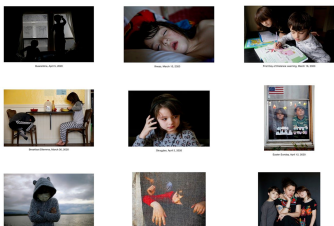
Yolanda Guerra | *Love and Courage!*: This woodblock print with embroidered elements on paper is about empowering young girls to walk in the world with love, courage, and confidence to be themselves. The embroidered image is meant to embody the passion and hope of those women who came before us, and the love that supports us as women as we move forward towards our future.



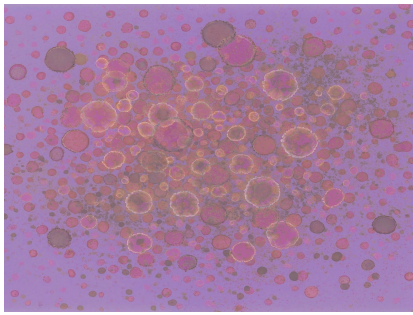
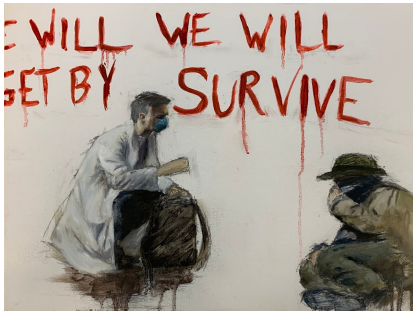






Benjamin Henderson | *Change Order*: Before computers, sign painters made small-scale hand drawn mock-ups for their client to approve prior to proceeding with work. When thinking about 2020 these half-colored mock-ups came to mind. It looks beautiful, hopeful, and promising - until it just stops. There is a sketch for how it was going to go, but it's incomplete. It's abandoned. There are frantic notes about what to do. Where this is all going is anyone's guess.



Edi Hsu | *Pandemic Mandala - 30 Bay Area People*: A collection of 30 real Bay Area individuals, live-painted with pen & watercolor, throughout various cities of the Bay Area, California — including San José, San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Palo Alto, and Redwood City. Each individual I painted is wearing a mask, and living their everyday life during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The figures are designed as a mandala to show how everyone is connected, despite social distancing.



Josie Lepe | *Quarantine 2020*: Snapshots of life during the pandemic quarantine provide a glimpse into my family's life, now confined and altered by a global virus. There are depictions of love, anxiety, restlessness and boredom. Presented in a documentary format with journalistic integrity, I offer you a front row view of my everyday life; my reality.

	<p>Rachel Liu <i>Pink Aggression</i>: This artwork is from a body of work called "Project Viral" that I began while sheltering-in-place during the pandemic. I worked with sanitizing products and personal protection equipment such as masks and gloves. Thus, the creative process reflects our collective neurosis in the time of the pandemic. This specific piece is created by dipping Q-Tips in rubbing alcohol and then applying directly on silver gelatin paper.</p>
	<p>Jacob Richman <i>We Will Survive</i>: A front-line medical worker in the streets of San José combats the virus in a homeless community. The piece speaks to the humanity of this fight that we are in. Beyond the graphs and the statistics, the toll this virus is taking on the individual is too often lost. Here two individuals are depicted, the doctor and the patient, forced to remain isolated from one another, but still connecting on the same plane.</p>
	<p>Yvette Sandoval <i>The New Normal</i>: This piece is inspired by the new day-to-day activities, actions, and habits, that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. Things like wearing masks and frequently sanitizing and washing our hands has become the new normal. This is exactly what the girl in my painting is doing. It's not always easy, however doing our part will help keep each other safe.</p>
	<p>Mathew Scicluna <i>Furlough</i>: The world faces one of the biggest epidemics in human history yet we are resistant to change. The year 2020 has us witnessing COVID-19 and racially charged protests and riots, which challenge old ways of thinking. We have been put on <i>furlough</i>, excused from occupational obligations, forced to observe the chaos from the comfort of our home jail cells. We have the opportunity to release what we know so it may evolve and serve us.</p>
	<p>Joe Saxe <i>Boxed In</i>: Kids are still growing and developing, but locked up at home, away from their friends, activities, and schools. Adults are banned from much of their social and work lives. Most of us are spending ever more time staring at a digital screen. Our everyday lives are disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic public health restrictions. It's hard not to be frustrated by being "locked down."</p>
	<p>Solar Toaster / <i>Safety Net</i>: This piece was originally inspired by an email communication with an old friend. In the years since we last spoke, we were each dragged through hell (and back). In reconnecting, we once again had each other's backs. This was comforting to know before parting ways into the chaos of 2020. As this year has dragged on, another interpretation presents; my friends and I are grasping for the raw human aspect of socialization. While not available, for now, we have each other, even if through a virtual safety net.</p>
	<p>Corinne Okada Takara <i>From a Distance, a teen collaborative artwork</i>: How are teens experiencing this moment? This piece reflects on their COVID-19 experience. As a biomaterial artist, I designed templates to grow mycelium face masks. Students drew the imagery that symbolizes: learning new languages, Black Lives Matters protests, social media consumption, time with pets, moving, enjoying the outdoors, and cultural healing foods. Student artists: Meley Haile, Penelope Sanchez, Oscar Montero, Anne Hu, Trisha Sathish, Emily Takara, and Izabella Tejada.</p>
	<p>Vicki Thompson <i>Birthdays</i>: Since March of 2020, influenced by Dorethea Lange and her work for the Farm Security Administration, I have documented San José and the people that defined my COVID-19 experience. From my day-to-day encounters with front-line-workers, to witnessing families adapt to the "new normal," I strive to record a firsthand account of how the virus has impacted every facet of this community's lives.</p>
<p>Images may be cropped to fit this narrative format. To view the full image, please visit the exhibition or online: www.sanjoseca.gov/HoldingTheMomentSJ.</p>	